

STORY 66.

THE SONS OF THE RULER OF THE LARGEST
EMPIRE IN THE WORLD CELEBRATE THEIR
I'D WITHOUT NEW CLOTHES.

THE festival of I'd was drawing near, on this day all Muslims especially children, array themselves in their best according to their means, and enjoy themselves to their hearts' content.

The I'd was drawing near but the sons of (Hazrat) Omar bin Abdul Aziz the ruler of an empire which extended from the Great Wall of China to the Atlantic had no new clothes to put on.

The queen said to the father of the boys, "My lord! On this day all the people will be wearing new clothes, only our children will be an exception. They will be in tattered garments. Can't you provide them with new clothes? How will the boys feel! Surely they will feel humiliated and who should have any regard for their feelings if not their parents."

The Khalifa was touched by this appeal. He sent to the keepers of Bait-ul-Mal the following note: "Please send me my monthly allowance in advance and put the sum down to my account in the Bait-ul-Mal account book."

When the keeper of the Bait-ul-Mal read this note he wrote back, "Sir, I am ready to obey the orders of the Caliph by all means but may I

inquire what has made sure of your life for another month. If you are not certain that you will live then why do you burden yourself with what does not belong to you." (Hazrat) Omar bin Abdul Aziz felt the full force of the argument, cancelled the order, and the children had to go without new clothes.